

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 ACDA-05 /067 W

----- 082437

R 290802Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1664

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, ASEAN

SUBJECT: MARCOS REMARKS ON ASEAN

1. SUMMARY: AT SINGAPORE PRESS CONFERENCE ON JAN 28  
MARCOS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS RE ASEAN, AS FILTERED THROUGH  
GOP PRESS GUIDANCE AND REPLAYED IN MANILA: (A) PRIMARY  
GOAL OF ASEAN IS ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND THIS IS BEST CURE  
FOR INSURGENCY WHICH IS MAIN REGIONAL SECURITY THREAT,  
(B) PHILIPPINES DOES NOT INTEND TO "PUSH" CLAIM TO  
SABAH, (C) ASEAN MAY PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR SETTLEMENT OF  
BORDER DISPUTES (ACCORDING TWO VERSIONS HE IMPLIED SABAH  
IS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH DISPUTES, (D) HE HAS NOT HEARD  
OF FOREIGN ATTENDANCE AT BALI SUMMIT AND THINKS  
FOREIGN APPROACHES TO ASEAN MORE APPROPRIATE AFTER  
ORGANIZATION "INTEGRATED". END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY MAIN POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT

MARCOS AT JAN 28 SINGAPORE PRESS CONFERENCE, AS FILTERED THROUGH GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY (PNA) AND GUIDED MANILA DAILIES:

2. FOREIGN ATTENDANCE AT BALI SUMMIT. MARCOS SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF THIS PROPOSAL. HE SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR COUNTRIES "LIKE AUSTRALIA" TO WAIT UNTIL ASEAN IS INTEGRATED AND ORGANIZED BEFORE MAKING APPROACH. (PRESS VERSIONS MAKE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO JAPAN.)

3. SECURITY ISSUES. MARCOS SAID INSURGENCY IS PRINCIPAL SECURITY THREAT, AND SAID ASEAN SHOULD SHARPEN TOOLS SUCH AS ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION TO MEET IT. HE ENCOURAGED FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PRESENT FORMS OF COOPERATION (JOINT PATROLLING, INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGES, ETC.) BUT, ACCORDING TIMES JOURNAL SAID IT WOULD BE "PRESUMPTUOUS" TO DISCUSS MILITARY PACTS. ("LET US NOT TALK ABOUT MILITARY PACTS. EITHER WAY I AM THE LOSER.")

4. ASEAN "HIGH COUNCIL." MARCOS SAID ASEAN COULD BE THE MECHANISM FOR SETTLEMENT OF BORDER DISPUTES (APPARENT REFERENCE TO LIKELY SUMMIT ENDORSEMENT OF TREATY OF PEACE AND AMITY AND "HIGH COUNCIL.")

5. SABAH CLAIM. ACCORDING VERSIONS IN ALL MANILA DAILIES, MARCOS (WHEN QUERIED) SAID GOP CLAIM ON SABAH IS "AT A STANDSTILL" OR "FROZEN." DAILY EXPRESS GIVES FOLLOWING DIRECT QUOTE: "WE HAVE NOT PUSHED IT AND DO NOT INTEND TO. IT IS HOPED THAT ASEAN WILL COME UP WITH A MECHANISM UNDER WHICH BORDER DISPUTED CAN BE SETTLED." (PNA AND MALACANANG PRESS RELEASE DID NOT MENTION SABAH. BULLETIN TODAY VERSION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF DAILY EXPRESS.)

6. ECONOMIC ISSUES. PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THAT "ECONOMIC STABILITY" IS ONE OF PRIMARY ASEAN OBJECTIVES AND EMPHASIZED LINK BETWEEN ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND ELIMINATION OF INSURGENCY. ACCORDING PNA, MARCOS SAID SUMMIT AGENDA INCLUDES "INDONESIA'S PROPOSALS FOR PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS ON SPECIFIC ITEMS AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL AS PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S PROPOSAL ON FOOD AND ENERGY" AND ASEAN-WIDE COOPERATION ON EXPORT PROMOTION.

7. FOR SINGAPORE: IF TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE AVAILABLE WOULD APPRECIATE COPY. MARCOS HAS NOT MADE DIRECT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO SABAH FOR SOME TIME. MOST OF HIS OTHER PRONOUNCEMENTS ON ASEAN STANDARD FARE, ALTHOUGH IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS TRYING TO DOWNPLAY

CONTINUING DIFFERENCES WITH INDONESIA RE CONOMIC COOPERATION.

8. POSTSCRIPT. IN ARRIVAL REMARKS AT MANILA JAN 29

MARCOS ADDED LITTLE TO ABOVE. MAIN THRUST OF HIS ARRIVAL  
COMMENTS WAS THAT RECENT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF,  
LEE, ONN, AND SUHARTO ROVING EMISSARY WIJOYO HAVE  
RESULTED IN "APPROVED" AGENDA AND "FIRM WORKING GUIDE-  
INES " FOR BALI SUMMIT. SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, ECONOMIC STABILITY, SUMMIT MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, RP, ASEAN, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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